

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1083

BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES; AMENDING SECTION 49-443, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE USE OF CERTAIN SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 49-443, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

49-443. LICENSE PLATES TO BE FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT -- FORM AND CONTENTS. (1) The assessor or the department shall furnish to every owner whose vehicle is registered or licensed by that office, pursuant to sections 49-402 and 49-402A, Idaho Code, one (1) license plate for vehicles registered under the provisions of section 49-406, 49-406A or 49-408, Idaho Code, or a motorcycle, trailer, truck-tractor, or semitrailer; one (1) restricted vehicle license plate for all-terrain vehicles, utility type vehicles and motorbikes licensed pursuant to this chapter; and two (2) license plates for every other motor vehicle. If a vehicle is issued one (1) plate only, that plate shall be displayed in accordance with the provisions of section 49-428, Idaho Code. For vehicles registered under the provisions of section 49-407, Idaho Code, the applicant shall provide one (1) plate to be displayed on the rear of the vehicle.

Commencing January 1, 1992, the color and design of the plates shall be comparable to the color and design of the statehood centennial issue of license plates with blue numerals and letters on a multicolored red, white and blue background. Each license plate must bear upon its face the inscriptions "Famous Potatoes" and "Scenic Idaho." The restricted vehicle license plate for all-terrain vehicles, utility type vehicles and motorbikes shall be a white background with black numerals and letters, with "Idaho Restricted Vehicle" and the year of its expiration on its face and no other inscription. The restricted vehicle license plate shall be the same size required for the motorcycle license plate.

Every license plate shall have displayed upon it the registration number assigned to the vehicle and its owner and the name "Idaho" which may be abbreviated. The plates issued under the provisions of section 49-402(1), Idaho Code, and the required letters and numerals, including an identification of the county in which the motor vehicle to which the plates will be affixed is registered, shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a distance of seventy-five (75) feet during daylight, and each license plate and registration sticker shall be treated with a fully reflectorized material according to specifications prescribed by the board.

(2) License plates shall be valid for a period of seven (7) years beginning with the date of issuance of new plates. At the end of the sixth year,

1 the registered owner shall receive notice of the date upon which the plates  
 2 will expire. The department shall implement a plate-number reservation pro-  
 3 gram beginning prior to the 1999 plate issue and following once every seven  
 4 (7) years thereafter, for a limited plate-number sequence in each county  
 5 ~~which that~~ chooses to offer a reservation program. Requests for license  
 6 plate number reservations shall be submitted to the county during the open  
 7 reservation period established by the department. The department may charge  
 8 a minimal fee as determined by the board to recover costs to the department  
 9 for reservation of license plate numbers. The provisions of this subsection  
 10 ~~(2)~~ shall not apply to any license plates issued pursuant to the provisions  
 11 of section 49-434(4), Idaho Code.

12 For specialty license plate programs discontinued pursuant to the  
 13 provisions of section 49-402C, Idaho Code, a registrant with a specialty  
 14 license plate currently registered under the program, may use such license  
 15 plate for up to seven (7) years from the date of issuance. This provision  
 16 is intended to permit the use of the specialty plate by the registrant re-  
 17 gardless of the number of persons who purchase the specialty plate. The  
 18 registrant shall be required to pay the special plate program fees provided  
 19 for specialty plates pursuant to this chapter. Such fees shall be deposited  
 20 into the state highway account.

21 (3) If a license plate number has expired as provided in subsection (2)  
 22 of this section and the number was not reserved, or if the vehicle registra-  
 23 tion is not renewed within sixty (60) days of its expiration, the plate num-  
 24 ber shall be available for use by another registrant. To obtain a specific  
 25 number in the recycled license plate number file, the owner of a registered  
 26 vehicle shall pay a one (1) time fee as determined by rule of the board.

27 The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to vehicles regis-  
 28 tered under the provisions of section 49-402(1), Idaho Code, and section  
 29 49-434(1), Idaho Code, as it applies to noncommercial vehicles.

30 (4) License plates issued for vehicles required to be registered in  
 31 accordance with the provisions of sections 49-402 and 49-402A, Idaho Code,  
 32 shall be issued color coded registration validation stickers showing the  
 33 year of registration. Each registration validation sticker shall bear a  
 34 number from 1 through 12, which number shall correspond to the month of the  
 35 calendar year in which the registration of the vehicle expires and shall be  
 36 affixed to the lower right-hand corner of the plates within the outlined  
 37 rectangular area.

38 (5) License plates for utility trailers registered under the provi-  
 39 sions of section 49-402A, Idaho Code, ~~which that~~ are issued for five (5) or  
 40 ten (10) years and license plates for rental utility trailers registered  
 41 under the provisions of section 49-434, Idaho Code, ~~which that~~ are issued for  
 42 up to five (5) years, shall use the design in effect on the date of manufac-  
 43 ture. If a design change occurs, plates from the effective date of the design  
 44 change shall be manufactured using the new design. Unexpired plates need not  
 45 be reissued to conform to a design change.

46 (6) For license plates ~~which that~~ are lost, stolen, mutilated, or il-  
 47 legible, the owner shall apply for a duplicate or substitute. The assessor  
 48 shall also furnish for each registration, and to validate the license plate,  
 49 a pressure-sensitive, uniquely-numbered registration sticker, except for  
 50 trailers and semitrailers registered under the nonexpiring provisions in

1 section 49-434, Idaho Code. License plates issued for state, county and city  
2 motor vehicles shall be permanent and remain on the vehicle for which issued  
3 from year to year, and need no renewal or validation sticker.

4 (7) Whenever a vehicle is completely destroyed by fire or accident and  
5 the operator submits satisfactory proof of that destruction to the depart-  
6 ment or appropriate assessor's office, the registration use increment and  
7 fees shall be transferred to the replacement vehicle for a service transfer  
8 fee of five dollars (\$5.00), which fee shall be retained by the registering  
9 authority. None of the original fees shall be subject to refund.

10 (8) The department shall furnish to every owner whose vehicle is regis-  
11 tered under sections 49-434 and 49-435, Idaho Code, a pressure-sensitive,  
12 uniquely-numbered registration sticker to validate the license plate,  
13 provided however, the provisions of this subsection ~~(8)~~ shall not apply  
14 to trailers and semitrailers registered under the provisions of section  
15 49-434(4), Idaho Code.

16 (9) The board shall have authority to require the return to the depart-  
17 ment of all license plates and registration stickers upon termination of the  
18 lawful use of them by the owner.

19 (10) The board may promulgate such rules as are necessary to implement  
20 the provisions of this section.

21 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
22 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its  
23 passage and approval, and retroactively to July 1, 2012.